

INVENTOR: HARRIS, Elbert  
Serial No. 10/693,590

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## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

### In the Specification:

Please enter the following amendments to the specification. No new matter has been introduced by these changes to the specification.

#### **Please amend paragraph 0003 as follows:**

(0003) In today's construction environment large fines and penalties can be exacted against entities that fail to act in a timely and efficient manner. These fines can lead to litigation associated with when submittals were made and who is responsible for delays **("submittal information")**. In many cases stacks of files and paperwork must be stored for years by each entity involved with a project to create a paperwork trail of what happened when **("submittal history")**. With fines and the threat of litigation, documentation has become a critical element for the contractor who plans to succeed in managing construction projects.

#### **Please amend paragraph 0004 as follows:**

(0004) US Patent 6,038,547 shows construction management software designed to assist in tracking job completion and payments to subcontractors for percentage of work completion. Use of this software by a general contractor would solve some problems associated with project management. This software does not offer assistance to the contractor or others in tracking the process of ~~creating~~ **creating**, tracking and storing submittals and submittal information.

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**Please amend paragraph 0017 as follows:**

(0017) The subcontractor will then evaluate 112 the need for additional information in order to make a submittal. If no outside assistance is ~~need~~ **needed**, the sub can use the system 10 to go ahead and generate 114 a submittal based on the requirements of their portion of the project. If however additional information is ~~need~~ **needed**, which is often the case, then the sub can go to a variety of specification web sites 120. For example, the sub might use the system 10 post a requirement with a supplier that has access to the system 10. That supplier web site 120 could send the sub information by which the sub could generate the submittal 114, or the system 10 could even post the submittal 114 for the sub. If the supplier is to send info for a submittal to a sub, the system 10 can check 122 that the specifications meet the submittal requirement posted. If in fact the specification check 122 of the supplier's product and the submittal match then the submittal information can be forwarded electronically either to the sub to generate the submittal or the submittal can be sent directly by the supplier for the sub. In situations where a physical sample must be sent 121, such as carpet or paint swatches, the supplier can send these directly to the general contractor, sub, architect and owner as desired. An email can be sent automatically alerting those in the system 10 that physical samples are coming.

**Please amend paragraph 0018 as follows:**

(0018) Figure 2 shows a continuation of the system 10 flowchart from Figure 1. The subcontractor will conduct a review of the completed submittal 130, and make any changes required. Then the completed submittal can be stored and posted 140 to an Internet web site. Once a submittal is posted 140 it can be reviewed in review process 150 by various professionals

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involved in the project including typically the architect, general contractor and project owner. During the review process 150 suggestions can be posted to submittal database 600 (Figure 3) on the web site. For example, the owner might post a question for clarification. After review 150 the next step can be for the submittal to receive approval 162, typically from the project architect or engineer. If not approved then the subcontractor could need to revise the submittal based on comments posted to the electronic web site database. Electronic notice 160 of a submittal acceptance or rejection can be sent via the system 10. Once a submittal is approved, it is submitted to the system 10 and updated as complete 164 in the system 10 and posted as approved on the web site 170 and continues to be available on a selected basis until after the completion of the project. When a project is approved 162, the system 10 can be set to automatically order materials approved, for example an order 180 for carpet that has been approved, could automatically be sent to a supplier. The approval can also automatically approve payment 190 to a subcontractor for materials and work to be done. Once a construction project is complete the submittal archive (submittal history) could be stored and be available for future use on a fee basis. For example if a question arises 2 years after a project is completed then a contractor may still be able to download submittal information for a fee.

**Please amend paragraph 0026 as follows:**

(0026) Manage items database 600 is where the management and completion of the actual submittals occurs. In this function the subscriber 510 can review actual submittals and make comments on submittals sent or create submittals where needed. Figures 1 and 2 show the management of an actual submittal document that occurs within this manage items database 600.

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**Please amend paragraph 0027 as follows:**

(0027) The contributor 512 has some of the same capability as the subscriber 510. The contributor 512 has the same my information capability 520. The contributor 512 has limited ability to manage jobs 532 in a portion of the manage jobs database 530, manage specs 582 in a portion of the manage specs database 580 and to manage items 602 in a portion of the manage items database 600. The contributor 512 has no ability to manage users or teams in this embodiment. This has the effect of forcing all correspondence and project information through the subscriber 510 and system 10 so that the subscriber 510 (general contractor) is aware of all aspects of the project process and so that a full record (submittal history) of all project activity is made. An alternative would be to give the contributor some limited ability to manage some users and teams related to their aspect of the overall project. The contributor 512 may need to pay to do this.